(iv) 10386 applications under the shelter upgradation component have been forwarded to banks/ HUDCO, out of which about 281 cases have been approved.

(v) 8382 Neighbourhood Group (NHGs), 1200 Neighbourhood Committees (NICs) and 444 Thrift & Credit Societies have been formed.

Rakesh Mohan Committee Report

1827. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the main recommendations of the Rakesh Mohan Committee report on urban infrastructure; and

(b) the steps taken to implement the report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The main recommendations of the Rakesh Mohan Committee on Urban Infrastructure are enclosed as statement.

(b) The steps taken so far to implement the recommendations of the Committee are : (i) a Drafting Committee has been constituted to develop guidelines for property tax reforms including delinking property tax base from Rent Control Act; and (ii) State Governments have been addressed to constitute Urban Development Funds/ Urban Infrastructure Finance Corporation to channelise funds available from various sources for undertaking projects in municipalities.

Statement

Recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee Report on Urban infrastructure

* Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) be adopted for the present. In water supply projects, it is possible to privatise sourcing, treatment and bulk supply. The retail distribution and pricing may remain with the public sector. Solid waste disposal can be privatised fully. Low Cost sanitation may be privatised fully on the model of Sulabh Shauchalaya. Maintenance of roads can be entrusted to the private sector subject to quality control.

* Differential treatment of water for different uses. Micro-level systems need to be designed to recycle water at the household level. The supply should be metered to plug leakages.

* The cost of collection, treatment and disposal of the solid waste be reduced. Greater attention to segregation of different kinds of waste at the collection point itself will reduce cost of disposal. Wherever environmentally acceptable, disposal can be decentralised to save on transportion cost.

* Proper packaging – for instance, clubbing water supply and drainage projects together – be used to reduced project cost and improve viability.

* In solid waste management, the "polluter pays" principle be applied.

* In the roads sector, apart from taxation/user charges and impact fees, costs may be recovered by giving advertisement rights (like running kiosks), long lease for trees and the right to use their product.

* The property tax base be freed from the Rent Control Act.

* The ULB be responsible for providing all urban infrastructure in the city area. The multiple agencies in charges of providing various services should be merged under the ULB.

* A state level Nodal Infrastructure Financing Corporation set up to channelise available from various sources and under various programmes to smaller municipalities.

Outstanding Loan

1828. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding arrears due from Jammu and Kashmir Government to the Union Government;

(b) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has represented that this loan must be written off;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the quantum of interest paid by State Government yearly on this loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The outstanding Government loan from Govt. of J & K to Ministry of Finance as on 31.12.1996 was Rs. 2788.51 crores.

(b) The Govt. of J & K sent a Memorandum to the Prime Minister requesting for waiver of outstanding Central loans of Rs. 1275 crores to enable it to improve the management of the deficit on the current account and for the balance, a rescheduling so that the outgo on account of servicing of loans is within manageable limits.

(c) The Prime Minister has announced, during his visit to J&K on 13-14th February, 1997 that the demand of the State Govt. for waiver of Central Debt amounting to Rs. 1275 crores would be looked into sympathetically and decision taken soon. A Central Team will be deputed for discussions in this regard.

(d) The interest payable by the State Government on account of outstanding loans to the Ministry of Finance during the year 1996-97 is Rs. 258.97 crores

Plan Objectives

1829. SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN :
SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its Approach Paper has suggested greater freedom for States in determining their annual plan size and outlays;

(b) if so, whether the States would therefore, be free to check their plan size, taking in to account the Central assistance;

(c) the other suggestions made by the Planning Commission the present status thereof and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken thereon; and

(d) whether States Governments will have the Plan outlays get financed, without diverting the funds earmarked for each sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Among the other suggestions made in the Approach Paper for allowing greater autonomy to the State Governments are :

(i) In principle, Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be confined to certain areas, and the rest should be transferred to the States along with corresponding funds in a phased manner in consultations with Central as well as State Governments;

(ii) The approach adopted in respect of Basic Minimum Services should be applied in some other important areas in which funds would be earmarked for achievement of pre-specified goals. States would, however, be given sufficient flexibility for designing the programmes and in implementing them in these areas;

(iii) Annual Plan documents of the States should be examined to ensure their broad adherence to the Five Year Plans and the States should be free to decide the annual phasing of sectoral/ subsectoral allocations keeping in view the appoved five year plan outlays, national priorities and their own needs;

(iv) Earmarking of outlays should be restricted to the minimum extent necessary consistent with national priorities. But the States would not have the freedom to divert funds from earmarked sectors/schemes without approval of Planning Commission.

The above suggestions of the Approach Paper will be incorporated, as appropriate, in the Ninth Five YEar Plan document and implemented during the Plan period in consultation with Central and State Governments.

[Translation]

Self-Employment in Uttar Pradesh

1830. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the self-employment programme has been implemented in Uttar Pradesh for the urban youths; and

(b) if so, the number of persons benefited under the said programme during the last three years till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Two Centrally-sponsored urban employment schemes namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) are being implemented in the country, including Uttar Pradesh. The Scheme of Urban Micro-Enterprises (SUME) under Nehru Rozgar Yojana helps urban poor beneficiaries in setting up self-employment ventures through grant of subsidy and loan. PMIUPEP was launched in November, 1995 to address the problem of urban poor in small town with a multi-pronged, integrated approach to the economic, social and physical conditions of the urban poor One on the several components of this scheme is to provide self-employment to the urban poor who are below the poverty line and having education upto 9th class or less.

(b) The benficiaries assisted for self-employment during last three years under NRY in Uttar Pradesh are detailed below :-